

1952 01-46

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION FROM
FOREIGN DOCUMENTS OR RADIO BROADCASTS

REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY USSR

DATE OF
INFORMATION 1953

SUBJECT Economic - Social insurance, public health

HOW
PUBLISHED Daily newspapers and monthly periodical

DATE DIST. 23 Feb 1954

WHERE
PUBLISHED Moscow, Kishinev

NO. OF PAGES 3

DATE
PUBLISHED 17 Feb-15 Aug 1953

LANGUAGE Russian

SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

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SOURCE As indicated

SOCIAL INSURANCE AND PUBLIC HEALTH IN THE USSR

This report presents information, taken from the Soviet press and a periodical, on expenditures for social insurance, public health, and pensions from the State Budget of the USSR.

Numbers in parentheses refer to appended sources.7

Large sums are being spent in the USSR for social insurance, medical treatment, sanatoria, health resorts, rest homes, pioneer camps, and outdoor recreation. In addition, children's clubs, sporting areas, ski bases, bathing beaches, and physical culture schools are being constructed and equipped from social insurance funds.

From year to year, the Soviet government increases the appropriations for workers' social insurance.(1) According to the State Budget of the USSR, expenditures for social insurance were 10.4 billion rubles for the First Five-Year Plan, 32.5 billion rubles for the Second Five-Year Plan, 35 billion rubles for the Third Five-Year Plan, and more than 80 billion rubles for the Fourth Five-Year Plan.(2) The 1952 budget was 2.6 times larger than the 1940 budget.(3) For the Fifth Five-Year Plan, an increase of 30 percent over the original allocation for social insurance appropriations has been approved in accordance with directives of the 19th Party Congress.(1)

The state social insurance budget for 1953 was approved at 22.7 billion rubles, an increase of 1.3 billion rubles over the 1952 budget. One tenth of this budget was to be allocated for maternity benefits, while 596 million rubles were to be allocated for rest facilities for workers' children, and 1,476,000,000 rubles for workers' rest facilities. In addition, 15 million rubles were to be allocated for paid transportation to health resorts.

In 1953, 230 million rubles were to be spent from social insurance funds for building and equipping trade union sanatoria. More than 200 million rubles were to be allocated for restoration, repair, and equipment of cultural and educational institutions, physical culture installations, and tourist bases, and for organization of tours and trips to alpine camps.

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More than 99 percent of the social insurance budget was being expended for various aspects of workers' benefits. The remaining one percent was to be spent for inspecting labor safety, medical control, training of personnel, and promotion of insurance legislation.

Altogether, a total of 42.9 billion rubles was allocated from the 1953 State Budget for social insurance and social security which provide funds for pensions, medical and sanatoria treatments, and temporary work disability.(4)

In cases of old age or disability, the Soviet worker receives a state pension. This pension becomes effective for men who have reached 60 years of age and have served 25 years in Soviet industry; for women, the age is 55 years of age with a 20-year service record in industry.(2)

Service in the Soviet Army, and time spent in partisan detachments and in FZO, trade, and railroad schools, higher educational institutions, tekhnikums, party schools, and trade union schools are counted in determining pensions. Instruction and training in schools are included in the work record if a worker was gainfully employed before entering an educational institution.

Pensions for prolonged meritorious service are paid to public education workers, pharmaceutical workers, veterinarians, zootechnicians, agronomists, and a number of others. These pensions are granted irrespective of age and condition of health and are paid for life. The pensions amount to 40 or 50 percent of the wage received by these workers.

Pensions for disability are granted to workers after examinations by Labor Medical Expert Commissions and are granted for full or partial disability. Invalids who have suffered from industrial accidents or trade diseases are paid up to 100 percent of their previous earnings.

Disabled veterans of World War II are granted pensions amounting to 50 to 100 percent of the wages they received before entering the Soviet Army.(5)

In the postwar years, pension provisions have been further extended. Laborers and technical engineering workers in essential branches of the national economy, such as the coal, metallurgical, petroleum, and chemical industries, and in railroad transportation and related enterprises, receive old-age pensions of 50 to 60 percent of their monthly salaries.(2)

The Soviet government is also supplying large sums for increasing and improving public health care. Over the last 12 or 13 years the appropriations for health care in the State Budget together with the expenditures for physical culture have increased almost 150 percent.(1)

The 1953 budget provided for an expenditure of 24.8 billion rubles for health care and physical culture. The government was to allot an additional sum of almost 1,363,000,000 rubles for health care, of which 525.5 million rubles were to be used for raising nutrition norms of the sick, 221 million rubles for additional medication, 276.8 million rubles for the purchase of additional linen for hospitals, and 240 million rubles for purchase of additional medical and operational equipment and supplies. In addition, about 100 million rubles were to be allocated for capital repair of health institutions.(4)

During the Fifth Five-Year Plan, the network of hospitals, dispensaries, maternity homes, nurseries, and kindergartens is to be expanded. The number of hospital beds is to be increased by no less than 20 percent, while the number of available places in sanatoria is to be increased by no less than

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15 percent, in nurseries by no less than 20 percent, and in kindergartens by no less than 40 percent.(1) The 1953 budget allowed for an additional 55,000 hospital beds, an additional 24,000 places in children's nurseries, and an additional 3,400 places in sanatoria.(4) Medical and prophylactic institutions will be allotted new equipment during the plan. The number of doctors will increase by no less than 25 percent.(1)

Appropriations for medical care of the rural population are constantly growing. In 1952, for example, the government allocated 106 million rubles for rural medical care in Novosibirskaya Oblast, a significant increase over the 28 million rubles allocated for the same purpose in 1940. The network of field obstetrical stations has been doubled and the number of medical districts has increased fourfold since 1940.

Rural medical institutions are being given new equipment. The number of X-ray machines during the past few years has increased more than fourfold, while the number of physiotherapy rooms has increased almost sevenfold, and the number of laboratories attached to hospitals has increased more than fourfold.(6)

SOURCES

1. Moscow, Trud, 26 Feb 53
2. Kishinev, Sovetskaya Moldaviya, 31 Mar 53
3. Trud, 17 Feb 53
4. Trud, 15 Aug 53
5. Moscow, Professional'nyye Soyuzy, No 6, 1953
6. Moscow, Izvestiya, 12 Apr 53

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